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THE VOICE

DORDT COLLEGE

WINTER 2006

VOLUME 51

NUMBER 2

“
Christians
should set a
standard of
excellence, not
drag behind.”
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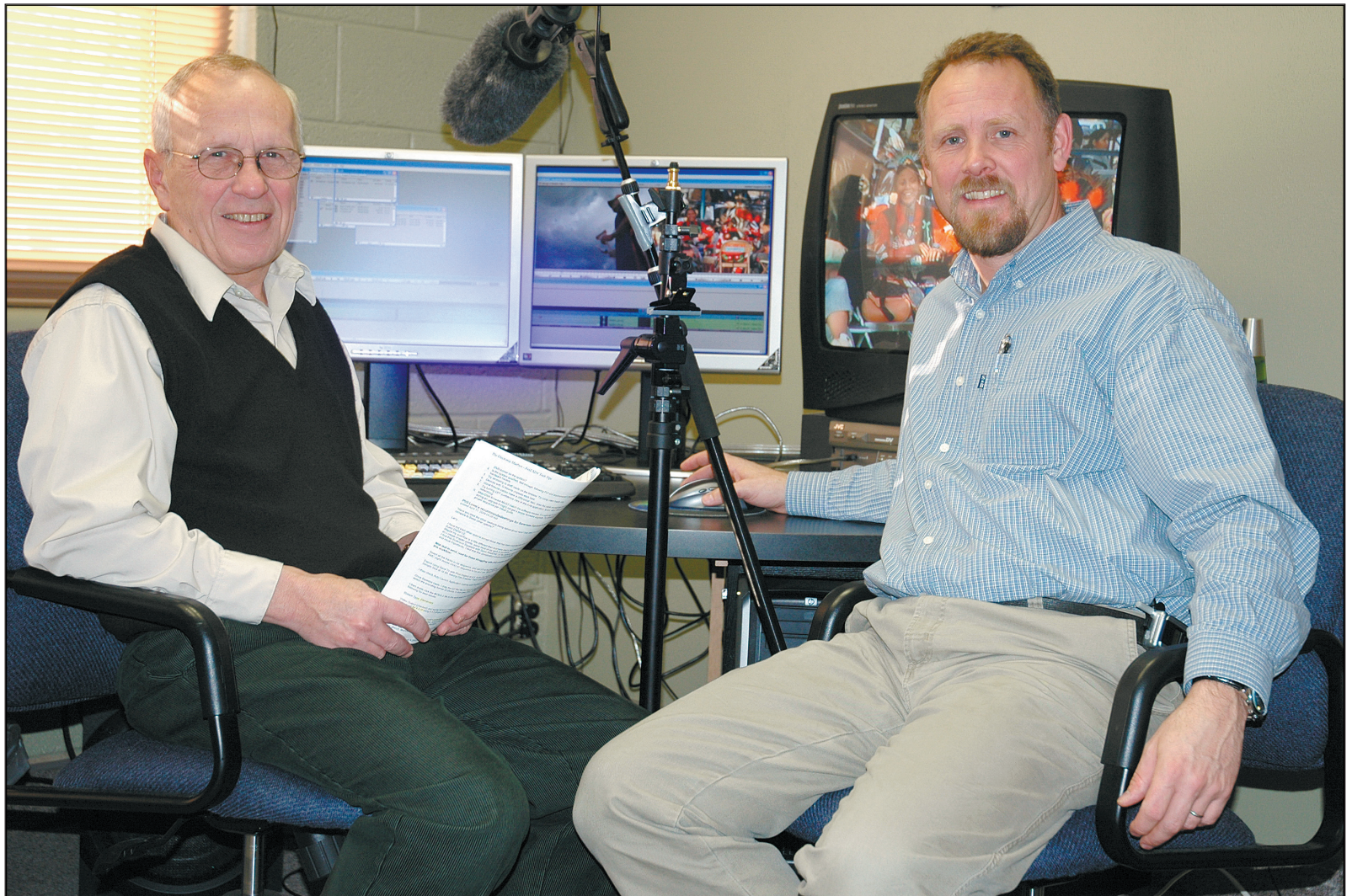
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Communication Professors Charles Veenstra and Mark Volkers are planning to expand video production education for their communication majors.

Students learn to help others tell their stories through video

Sally Jongsma

New video equipment is ordered for the communication department, and new courses in video production are on the schedule for next fall. Renovating studio and classroom space began already this past summer, and Professor Mark Volkers has settled in as the new communication professor and electronic media specialist on campus.

Dr. Charles Veenstra, chair of the communication department, believes that Volkers' appointment will make good things happen in the program.

"Volkers brings cutting edge expertise in visual technology, filling a position that has been vacant for the past year," Veenstra says. As the department begins its scheduled program review, Veenstra is delighted to have Volkers help assess how the program can expand in the next five years.

Volkers' two big interests are missions and communication. In his former position

ON A RELATED NOTE:

See pages 2 and 4 for related stories on projects in the communication department.

as communications director for Christian Reformed World Missions, he combined both. He expects to do the same here—training students to live out their calling through visual media.

"My passion is to help Christian organizations tell their story," he says. He is eager to have his students learn how to showcase organizations and share information through film, shaping that information in a way that encourages people to act.

"The focus for me is not on technique, yet it has to be that too," Volkers says, adding, "Christians should set a standard of excellence, not drag behind." Volkers tries to

work with people in a way that allows them to communicate in the best way they can. He'll try to help his students learn that lesson, too. He also stresses basic communication through the written word, believing that people need to be able to write well if they are to communicate well.

"I hope all of my students will take advanced composition," he says. Communication has grown to include technology, but he believes that it still rests on good writing skills.

Volkers, who spent seven years doing mission work in Africa, has filmed, written, and produced documentary films about cultures and people from around the world. He has received fifteen Telly Awards for his documentaries. As communications director for CRWM, he oversaw their website, produced films, acted as photojournalist, and edited *Proclaim* magazine. Volkers recently completed his first year of a Ph.D in communications at Wayne State

(continued on page 4)

Katrina comes to Sioux Center

Julie Ooms

After hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, the Dordt community, like many around the country, made an effort to help Katrina's victims. People contributed to a clothing drive, participated in a walk-a-thon, and donated to a relief fund. However, many in the community wanted to do more.

"We wanted to help, but didn't know how," says Sue Droog, director of human resources. So, when community member Patty Luken mentioned that her friend Joyce Satterly from Grand Bay, Alabama, had been left with nearly nothing, the college found a way to help.

The Satterlys—Joyce and her children, Stephanie and Matthew—were invited to stay—rent-free until July 1—in an empty house at the Dordt farm, to allow them time to get back on their feet. When the Satterlys agreed, preparations for their arrival became a community project. Dordt maintenance staff prepared the farmhouse, which hadn't been occupied for eighteen months. Justice For All donated furnishings and other household items; other donors contributed pots and pans, couches, beds, towels—the basic necessities for a home. Sioux Center businesses donated gift cards for clothing, gas, and groceries.

The Satterlys arrived with three suitcases and a car. Their lives have changed significantly since then. Joyce, who worked at a Wal-Mart in Grand Bay, has a job at the Sioux Center Wal-Mart. Stephanie started work at the movie theater and is enrolled at Dordt for the second semester.

Joyce, who has survived three hurricanes, says she intends to relocate here. The aid of Dordt College and its community was invaluable to the Satterlys in helping them get back on their feet in a new community.

Helping the Satterlys benefited the Dordt community as well. "This—helping a family that was truly affected by the hurricane—helps put a face on the Katrina victims," Droog says. The endeavor of help and hope drew the community together around a common goal, gave them a clear picture of what is possible when tragedy strikes as well as after it has passed, and showed them a clear example of what Christian community, fellowship, and caring is really all about.

Creating a safe campus

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra

Why does Dordt College need \$200,000 from the federal government for a "Safe Campus" grant? Is Sioux Center such a dangerous place that we need the federal government to provide almost a quarter of a million dollars to keep it secure?

Those are fair questions. When you hear that Dordt College received a grant from the United States Department of Justice under its "Safe Campus" initiatives funded by the Violence Against Women Act, you might wonder just what's going on in Northwest Iowa.

First, let me assure friends and supporters of Dordt College that by all current comparison standards, this is a "safe campus." Our crime statistics are, in accordance with federal law, posted on the web, and we are bluntly honest in reporting the crimes that we become aware of, including alcohol law violations. We know what the law is. We expect our students to follow it. When they don't, we deal with it promptly and firmly.

It's also important to remember that the fundamental framework from which we approach all activities on campus, academic and social alike, is the motif of "Creation, Fall, and Redemption." In our social community, we uphold the biblical principles for human behavior God built into the creation—but we also are well

aware that human sin leads all of us, Dordt College students included, to violate them on occasion. Social/sexual relationships are, tragically, no exception to that.

But we also believe in redemption. We believe God's Word and Spirit provide an opportunity to renew our lives in keeping with God's original good plan for creation, relationships between men and women included. That's why we have a student services staff of expert counselors and spiritual encouragers. That's the purpose to which all of our faculty and staff are committed. And if the federal government wants to give us \$200,000 to do that better, perhaps our best response is a simple, "Thank You."

Yet to get back to the original question, "Yes, I do believe that this is a safe campus." On Parents' Weekend I told a story that illustrates my point. One day early in our first semester, unfortunately, several students discovered valuables had disappeared from their parked cars overnight. We took that seriously. The local police worked with us. And although we never did identify a suspect, it became apparent that someone from off campus had raided several vehicles that night—something that, at least so far, has not recurred this year. But the most interesting part of the story is this: When our vice president for student services began to gather information on this incident, one of the first questions he asked each student was, "Did you have your car locked?" And the

almost uniform response was, "Why would we have done that?" Almost every vehicle from which items disappeared had been left unsecured.

So, yes, our students do feel safe on our campus—although we know we can do better still.

From a biblical point of view, being a "safe campus" involves more than that most students leave their cars unlocked on campus and seldom lock their dorm rooms. From a biblical point of view a truly "safe campus" is one where the Word of God holds authority in every classroom and in every campus activity. A truly "safe campus" is one where the biblical perspective by which God calls us to study and serve in his world is the perspective that is taught and encouraged in every course, music performance, athletic event, and social setting on campus. That's not something the federal government gives grants for, but it is equally important and more fundamental to the value of a Dordt College education than some of the other concerns we address each year.

I believe that developing that sort of "safe campus" is worth the effort and money that students and supporters have invested over the decades into making Dordt College what it is today. I am convinced that creating a biblically safe campus is worth even greater investments and commitment for the years ahead. If the government can give \$200,000 to create what they consider an even safer environment than we've had, think how much those of us who know what a truly "safe" campus actually is can be willing to commit to this cause for the years to come.

Faber helps shape his education

Senior Aaron Faber wants to start his own video production company—not entertainment films or movies, but training or product videos. He's getting hands-on experience this year creating forty-five-second film clips for academic departments on the Dordt College website.

"As I talked to my friends I was surprised at how many of them were at Dordt College because they had found it on the web," Faber says. "That puts a lot of pressure on a website," he adds. He proposed including video footage so that prospective students would get a better picture of what programs offer. Faber wanted to get some production experience, so he proposed an internship that would benefit both him and the college. Faber is learning a great deal as a result of the project and the direction of new faculty member Mark Volkers.

"The videos are simply images and music," Faber says. Most of the information prospective students need about the program is already available in printed form on the site, but the video helps give them a better feel for the program and for Dordt College.

Volkers adds, "These video clips are gateways into departments, one more way for prospective students to enter Dordt's website. The clips are emotive rather than

cognitive, and they will help a young person interested in the department continue clicking deeper into the site."

The rule of thumb for producers is to have an hour of film footage for each minute of finished video. Faber has forty-five minutes to an hour of film for each of the fifteen department videos currently in process. That's a lot of film, and puts him behind the computer, editing, for many hours. He meets with Volkers each week for direction in the process.

Faber's interest in video began in high school when his parents bought their first digital camcorder. "I had time, and I enjoyed playing with it, so I spent lots of time learning. My friends and I would go out in the desert on motorcycles or trucks and videotape ourselves, then come back and make videos of the footage."

Faber worked for one summer during college at a television studio and another at a video production company. At

Dordt he was introduced to broadcasting in his second year. In the year between when Ron Johnson left and Volkers came, Faber focused on his broader education. He wishes Volkers had come a year earlier, but he appreciates the breadth of his education.

"I've enjoyed the fact that Dordt educates the whole person," he says. "I wouldn't change my education even for a better video education somewhere else."

Faber learned a great deal this year through the video project. "In a sense it feels like real job experience because I had to deal with the departments as if they were customers," he says. He's not only learned much technically, but he's also learned a great deal about working with people. "You learn patience because so much depends on other people. When I do an assignment for class it only depends on me—I get it and do it. Here I have to wait to hear back from people and fit into their schedules."

Faber says his work this semester has confirmed video production as his career choice. "I now know that I do want to go into this area, but I think I'd like to focus on shooting film rather than editing it."



Dr. Carl E. Zylstra



Board goes back to school

Sally Jongsma

On Friday, October 21, students weren't the only ones heading to class at 8:00 a.m. Board of trustees members on campus for their annual fall board meeting fell in line along the walkways, heading for their classrooms.

The number of classes meeting at 8:00 a.m. is not as large as later in the morning. More natural sciences than social sciences courses meet, and with the exception of one Dutch class no humanities courses meet. Nevertheless, Board President Rev. Calvin Hoogendoorn felt it would be valuable to have board members see what goes on in the classroom.

"The intention was to show appreciation, affirm what professors are doing, and be better advocates for the college when board members go back into their communities," Hoogendoorn said.

"It was a great experience and a lot of fun," said board member Kevin Wolterstorff ('81) about Dr. Matt Dressler's "Statics and Strength of Materials" class. "I learned how stress on various materials is calculated, graphed, and used in manufacturing or engineering projects. . . . I wish I could go to the next class to follow the concept in greater depth. The professor was engaging and drew the class into discussion and thoughtful participation. As a banker I could only sit and listen. Although the stress curve looked exactly like an interest rate yield curve, from that point it was all uncharted territory for me. What a great experience!"

Arnold Veldkamp, Jr., attended calculus class because his father taught it for many years—and the current professor was just a young neighborhood boy when he attended Dordt.

"Professor Faber made the subject matter come alive by using calculus to explain the existence and location of rainbows. I enjoyed the class very much."

Alvin Kooiman attended Dr. Duane Bajema's "Marketing of Agricultural Products" class because of his interest in the subject and because of its importance for farmers.

"Excellent," he says of the class. "It dealt directly with the struggles that many farmers have with marketing their crops. I appreciated how Mr. Bajema asked each of the students what they would have done with the crop that Dordt had marketed the day before—a very practical question and one that most of them will face many times throughout the year if they are involved with agriculture."

"I loved the experience," says Dan Kuiper ('82). "It brought back some great college memories. Once again it reinforced to me the quality professors we have at Dordt College. It also helped me see a little better where the 'rubber meets the road.' Personal contact between all members of the college family builds better relationships and helps us all face the challenges of today's education environment."

Faculty, too, appreciated having board members visit. Education Professor Ed Starkenburg said, "They were a blessing to the class! Since it's an 8:00 a.m. class, it is sometimes tough for students to stay wide awake and engaged for the full hour. But the presence of board members seemed to inspire them to the point that one student said we had the best discussion of



Senior business students had the opportunity to learn from the expertise of board members when they visited classes as part of the board meeting agenda in October.

Board elects new officers

The board elected a new vice president and vicar at its October meeting. Mr. Jim Schippers of Holland, Michigan, currently vice-all of the board will serve as vice president for the next year and Mr. Alvin Kooiman of Worthington, Minnesota, will become vicar. They join previously elected officers, Chair Dr. Calvin Hoogendoorn of Sioux Falls and Secretary Ms. Carol Van Klompenburg of Pella, who were elected at the spring meeting.

the semester. Board member Randy Kroll helped us understand more fully the public's expectations of professionals in our society. His contribution was a major boost to the discussion."

Dr. Leen van Beek enjoyed having Rev. Carl Klompien and Anthony Begay in his classroom. Klompien knows a bit of Dutch and exchanged phrases with students, and Begay taught the class a few standard greetings in Navaho.

Business Professor John Visser thinks it is important for board members to actually see what is going on in the classroom, but he says they also verify for students that what is going on in the classroom is relevant to life outside of Dordt. His business senior seminar that day featured a debate on the topic "Students should receive vouchers for use in private (for-profit and not-for-profit) or public schools." Students discussed the topic with board member and former Iowa legislator Ken Veenstra, who has worked on educational choice issues in state politics.

Jim Schippers ('80), whose son Andy was a member of the class, also attended and, after seeing both apathy and passion in students in the class, said, "I would love to retake many of those classes and soak it all in. I wanted to say to some of the non-involved students, 'Hey sit up, get involved, speak up, ask questions, make comments. This is neat stuff.'" But Schippers admits

that he probably had some classes where he was not involved and acknowledges that hindsight and experience are powerful motivators.

Dr. Chris Goedhart admits to checking the electronic technology an extra time before class to make sure it would work smoothly and to adding some visuals to his powerpoint to help his board visitors put the topic in context.

"Before class I talked briefly with one of the board members. Unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to talk with any of the board members after the class was over, and I would have enjoyed that. I think there is a role for board members, whether of a corporation or of a college to get a sense of what is happening in the trenches. To make the experience more valuable for both board and faculty members, I think an opportunity for interaction should exist. Board members should not only see us put on our best 'dog and pony show' but should have a chance to find out about the joys and concerns of our work."

Ruth Verhoef ('71) made a point of speaking with both students and the professor she visited. "Coming in as a board member from California and not having been on Dordt's campus for over four years, it was a joy to be able to connect with my college again. The meal with the Student Forum members . . . allows board members to gain a glimpse of the aims of Dordt College through the lives and words of students. That and the classroom visit were the highlights for me. I realize that a board meeting is not meant to entertain or appease the desires of its members; however, building into the schedule the opportunity to meet with student leaders and attend a class allows board members to put 'emotion' and a 'face' on the task at hand."

Starkenbourg sums up: "Students get to interact with board members and see that they are very interested in education at Dordt and in the faculty and students. Board members get to see what students do, what faculty do, how their decisions affect what goes on in classrooms across campus. Overall, it brings together three very important players in the game of education so they all better understand and appreciate each others' work."

Campus Capsules

Bajema's students come through

Dr. Duane Bajema had a gratifying experience this semester. His Tuesday morning upper-level class of sixteen students scheduled to meet at 8:00 a.m. included a number of students who wanted to take the class but had conflicts with other courses. On the first day of class, students often try to negotiate changing the meeting time—an impossibility with sixteen students.

"After much discussion, we decided that we had three options—meet at the regularly scheduled time and say, 'That's the way it is,' meet in the two free half-hour time slots in the schedule on Tuesday and Thursday, or lastly, meet at 6:30 a.m. every Tuesday."

Bajema asked the students to vote by e-mail. Twelve students voted for 6:30 a.m. and made comments like "If I can help someone else, I am willing to meet at 6:30 a.m."

"I appreciated the servant spirit," Bajema says.

DeVries receives coveted scholarship

Lisa DeVries, a junior vocal music and pedagogy major from Orange City, Iowa, is the recipient of one of three scholarships from the Fort Dodge Choral Society of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

DeVries will be one of two featured scholarship winners in a concert to be held next spring.

The society awards three scholarships per year to vocal music majors after reviewing applications from colleges and universities from across the state of Iowa. Each \$500 scholarship is non-renewable, although a student may receive the scholarship for up to two years. To apply for a Fort Dodge Scholarship, a student must send in an application form plus two letters of recommendation and a recording. DeVries is the first Dordt student to receive the award.



DeVries

Students learn video production

(continued from page 1)
University in Dearborn, Michigan.

Under Volkers' supervision, Dordt College is adding ten Avid Suite stations. Avid is the industry standard in video technology software and is used by most of the television and movie industry. It will allow Dordt students to produce news and documentary stories and films in their communication program. In addition, they will take courses that teach them about lighting, camera work, audio, interviewing, directing, editing, and more.

"Our niche at Dordt College may well be to help students build good documentary videos," Volkers says. That background will prepare them to work in video production firms that produce anything from Hollywood films to industry training videos to documentaries. It would also prepare them to work with an advertising agency.

While Volkers builds the video end of the communication major he is also putting his craft to work for the college. The admissions office is beginning to plan its next DVD to introduce prospective students to the college, due out in the spring of 2007. With some help from his students, Volkers will shoot and produce the video rather than bring in an outside production company to do the final product. The college will benefit from Volkers' award-winning expertise, and students will get hands-on experience.

"You can't learn this stuff simply from a textbook," Volkers says, adding, "You need to get in and get your 'hands dirty'—while you're reading your text." Students also need to learn to improvise. But much of the work comes down to basics—good lighting, good writing, and good design.

Volkers and Art Professor David Versluis have also begun to talk about how they can work together in the video communication and graphic art programs to develop and include animation in their projects.

"Video media is a powerful form of communication. If we don't tell our story, someone else will. And they won't necessarily get it right," says Volkers. For him "our story" is what God is doing in the world. And that story needs to be told well.

Film festival is a challenge

Sally Jongsma

Four students and a professor spent more than forty-eight intense hours together in late October. Communication Professor Mark Volkers and four student film buffs participated in a forty-eight-hour film challenge, one of 161 teams nationwide—teams whose members ranged from California professionals to high school enthusiasts. All started with the same building blocks: At 7:00 p.m. in their own time zone, each team received an e-mail with a genre, a line of dialogue, a prop, and a character out of which they were to create a four- to eight-minute film. That film had to be mailed two days later.

The Dordt team of Volkers, Tara Warolin, Aaron Huisman, Jon De Weerd, and Matt Berkenpas were given the genre of comedy. Their line of dialogue was "Ah, but can you do this?"; the prop was "gravity"; and the character was "Pat Ogelsby, a door-to-door salesperson."

"Exhilarating, exhausting, elating," are the three words Warolin uses to describe the event. Although the team had done a bit of preparation by scouting out possible shooting locations, auditioning possible actors, and getting releases signed, the 7:00 p.m. e-mail marked the start of two feverish days of activity. They headed to a seminar room and, with the exception of Volkers who stole two hours of sleep and Warolin who managed to get one, worked on the script through the night.

"That's probably one of the toughest parts," says Volkers. "You have to force yourself to sit down and write something that's believable."

"We started to brainstorm and throw



Students who teamed up with Professor Mark Volkers got little sleep but learned a lot during a 48-hour team film challenge. Pictured are Jon De Weerd, Matt Berkenpas, Aaron Huisman, Tara Warolin, and Volkers.

out random ideas," says Warolin. "Most of us had been suggesting crazy things while Jon was sitting quietly in the back. All of a sudden he blurts out 'vacuums,' and we went with it." "Extracting SUCKcess," the title of the film, grew from there.

By 8:30 the next morning, energized by adrenalin rather than sleep, the team left for Orange City to begin filming. They returned to campus by afternoon, and finished filming in the B.J. Haan Auditorium by midnight. After a few hours of sleep, the team began a twenty-four-hour editing marathon.

"It was an entire semester of learning in forty-eight hours," Huisman says. Students wrote the script, shot camera footage, did lighting, and some acting and editing.

"Film projects can stretch out a long time," says Volkers, who is an award-winning filmmaker. "Here you have to finish something up within two days."

Judging of the films occurs over the next

sixty days. Judges will select one winner and let the public vote for another winner from the top fifteen films. Volkers was recently notified that the film is being shown at a National Film Challenge Showcase in St. Louis in early November. Although separate from the judging process, the film's selection is nevertheless an honor. Regardless of the results, Volkers says the award is not what's important. He's seen what students have learned and the buzz it created on campus for the expanded program in filmmaking that will take off next year. With the addition of new equipment and new courses next year, he expects students to begin learning a great deal about filmmaking as they work on a variety of worthwhile projects.

"Film is a powerful form of communication," he says. "We need to learn how to use it to tell what God is doing—and tell our story with excellence."

Art students paint for others

Julie Ooms

Art students at Dordt College had a unique opportunity: to paint a mural, sixty-five feet long and five feet high, in the library at Sioux Center Christian School. John Olthoff, a Dordt professor and SCCS board member, suggested the mural, a timeline stretching from one end of the library to the other, and from the beginning of history to the present. The art department was happy to oblige, and the SCCS students are enthusiastic about this addition to their school.

Art Professor Susan Van Geest says the mural contributed to learning for both Dordt and SCCS students. Van Geest sees the mural as a way to promote collaboration in the classroom, to enable the students to get to know each other better (which helps when they have to honestly critique each other's work) and to allow art to serve a nonprofit function. And, since fine art students are used to working by and for themselves, the mural gave students the opportunity to serve others' needs and work with a client. "The students learned to work



Painting 1 students who helped create a mural at Sioux Center Christian School were (front, from left) Rebecca Postma, Clara City, Minn.; Amanda Nieuwenhuis, Corsica, S.Dak.; Lauralee Stel, Lansing, Ill.; Lindsey Shearer, Monument, Colo.; Rita Vander Wal, Manteca, Calif.; Kara Kuipery, Rockwood, Ont, Canada; Sarah Franken, Sioux Center, Ia.; Liz Terborg, Pella, Ia.; Randi Unverzagt, Canton, S.Dak.; (on scaffold, from left) Ginelle Bakker, Lowland, Ont., Canada; Michelle Obbink, Hawarden, Ia.; Mason Welsh, Neligh, Neb.; Brent Koops, Osborne, Kan.; Philip Van Dyken, Ripon, Calif.; Tara Warolin, Sumas, Wash.; and Mark Wikkerink, Duncan, B.C., Canada.

together, combine their different styles, and see their own value as artists, as well as the value of their fellow students' work," Van Geest said.

As for the SCCS students, Van Geest

hopes the mural will be a learning aid as well as a way to encourage appreciation of art. If the children's enthusiasm is any clue, her hopes are sure to be fulfilled.

Women artists have a dinner party

Julie Ooms

Five years ago, Dordt College Art Professors Susan Van Geest and Jo Alberda organized a dinner party for women artists, where they could discuss their work, their gifts, and how they used them in single, married, and family life. This year, Van Geest and Alberda held a similar event, but it grew from a small function with one presenter to one with eight presenters and several women alumni artists. The dinner party has been so successful and so beneficial to students that Van Geest wishes to hold it every four years from now on.

On October 13-14, the presenters and participants were involved in discussion groups on such topics as balancing family life and work and myths about women in the working world as a whole. They listened to lectures about the history of women in the arts and presentations by alumni about their varied art careers. And they enjoyed a reception in which the participants could view the artists' work.

According to Van Geest, the purpose of the event is to introduce students—particularly female students—to different areas of art, examine how they can pursue art in life, and allow them to realize that they can use their artistic gifts to God's glory wherever they are in life. The chief purpose of the event, however, is to instill in students a sense of confidence in their own work and a recognition of their own potential. Van Geest's hope is that the event will inspire students to use their gifts effectively both at and after Dordt College, as well as help them to think and believe that what the alumni and presenters are doing with their art careers are possible for them, too.



Kate (Ellens) Ver Velde, an interior decorator, and Laura Schippers Kleinheksel, a graphic artist, were two of the alums who returned to show their work and talk with women art majors at The Dinner Party.

Dinner Party presenters

- Ann Balakier, keynote speaker
- Teresa (Kuiper) Elenbaas ('01)
- Emily Hutten ('00)
- Sara (Blom) Mulder ('03)
- Laura (Schippers) Kleinheksel ('02)
- Marisa Ten Brink ('04)
- Kari (Niewenhuis) Van Zante ('02)
- Kate (Ellens) Ver Velde ('01)

Student response to the event has been positive, Van Geest says, especially concerning the small group discussions, in

which the students could hear personal stories and receive encouragement from women pursuing tracks in life similar to the ones they wish to follow. Students had an opportunity to discuss how they could work with art with fellow women artists. For example, one woman works with people in a homeless shelter, introducing them to art. Women with careers in graphic design (the art application usually seen as the most "practical") as well as art educators, interior designers, and gallery artists shared experiences.

A few students, Van Geest relays, even called the event life-changing. That is, after all, what this event is supposed to do: enable female students to realize the potential God has given them and discover on a more complete level the ways in which they can use their gifts.

Seamstress donates yards and yards of fabric

Jane VerSteeg

Sue Blom believes in fairy tales. As costume designer/seamstress for Dordt College, she's lived her fantasy, creating fabulous costumes for fairy tale characters in the fall Dordt theater production "Into the Woods," presented at the Te Paske Theatre over Parents' Weekend and the last weekend of October.

"It's been a ball," says Blom, who has created a princess production on a pauper's budget thanks to a donation made recently by a local seamstress.

Arta Zevenbergen made it all happen. After thirty plus years as a bridal wear seamstress in Sioux Center, Zevenbergen decided to retire last year. Her basement was filled with fabric and remnants from the nearly 2500 wedding and prom gowns she had sewn over the years. To solve her problem she donated it all to Dordt College's costume shop. Packing up the silk, satin, taffeta, and trim, Zevenbergen donated about three carloads of fabric and notions to the



The Dordt theater production, "Into the Woods," featured about fifty fairy tale costumes created with fabric donated by Arta Zevenbergen (seated), Sioux Center, who recently retired as a bridal wear seamstress. Standing is Sue Blom, who is manager and seamstress for Dordt College's theater department.

costume shop. The gift consisted of nearly 1500 yards of fabric, 195 patterns, lace and trim, shelving and a bonus forty-seven pairs of shoes.

"It's just fabulous!" raved Sue Blom, who said the whole look of this fall's production was based on the donated fabric. "The silk and satin in rich colors of purple and blue and green were perfect for costuming the fairy tale characters in this production," says Blom, who

along with nine workstudy students were kept busy sewing about fifty extravagant costumes for the production.

"Thanks to the donated materials, we were able to do more with shoes, wigs, make-up, and props," remarked Blom, who also had to figure out how to sew a giant beanstalk that grows.

"Wow, it kills me!" said Zevenbergen on seeing the ostentatious royal stage

costumes created out of sixty yards of leftover choir robe fabric from Unity Christian High School. "It's very interesting, totally different work than what I used to do," Blom commented that as a theater seamstress, she tries to create visual cues for each character with their costumes. She began sketching costumes during the summer, then altered patterns as needed, constructing the costume specifically to fit the Dordt student cast for the part.

After the fall production, the new garments were added to Dordt's costume shop, where more than three decades of costumes already are available for use in regional theater productions. Blom said that last year nine high schools and eleven churches, as well as many individuals, borrowed costumes from the Dordt theater department.

The musical *Into the Woods* is based on Grimm's fairy tales. Its favorite fairy tale characters are granted their wishes, but then discover the consequences are not always "happily ever after."

Campus Capsules

Students gather grass seed

Field trips aren't uncommon for students in Dr. Matt Stutz's environmental studies classes. But this fall Stutz decided to take his introductory environmental studies class to Broken Kettle Prairie.

Students in the class study biblical principles of stewardship and spend considerable time understanding how ecosystems function. Since prairies are important ecosystems in the Midwest, Stutz decided it would be beneficial for them to spend some time in the prairie and put into practice principles of service and stewardship.

Each student was given a small paper bag to collect seed from native prairie grasses. An hour later all bags were filled, and enough Big Blue Stem, Indian Grass, Canada Rye, and Scotch Grass seed was collected to restore one more acre of native prairie.

Broken Kettle Prairie is the largest intact native prairie in the state of Iowa. Portions of it have never been tilled, only grazed. Other sections have been cropped and will be restored as much as possible to the state they were in when natural weather and prairie fire cycles defined them. Broken Kettle is maintained by the Nature Conservancy, an organization whose stated mission is "to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive."

Students leisurely strolled through the prairie, grabbing seed heads at hand height. They also were asked to respond to a set of questions that helped them observe more deliberately the ecosystem they were visiting.

It was a worthwhile trip for students from Stutz's point of view. And it was certainly a service to the Nature Conservancy, which depends on volunteers to do its work. Fifty people working one hour that day gathered only enough seed to restore one acre of prairie. The Nature Conservancy welcomes the help they get, and the public benefits by being able to explore, study, and enjoy native Iowa prairie ecosystems.

Business magazine ranks Dordt College among the best

Business Reform magazine named Dordt College among the top five Christian colleges and universities in job placement in its September/October issue.



Business Reform's stated purpose is to deal with today's business issues from a biblical worldview. In their profile of Christian educational institutions this year, the magazine evaluated four criteria: most Biblical, top business faculty, best job placements, and deans' top ten list.

"We know a question many parents ask is this: 'Will my child get a job as a result of completing this college course?' So with that in mind, we searched our contributors' list to find out how well students did in finding a job after they finished their college course," stated the article. "This can be a major factor in deciding to which college to send your child."

Also named among the top five in job placement were Belhaven College, George Fox University, Union University, and Southwest Baptist University.

Last year was the first time *Business Reform* magazine surveyed and researched college and university business programs. The magazine expects to make it an annual tradition.

Sally Jongsma

Dr. Robert Horton, Dordt's new organ instructor, is happy playing almost anything that is in front of him when he sits at the organ. And his delight is obvious to those who hear him play. At a recital shortly after arriving on campus this fall, he captivated his audience with the life and energy in his playing.

Horton also impressed a jury of the world's most respected organists in Georgia in November. As one of five selected participants in The Jordan International Competition held in the new RiverCenter at Columbus State University, Horton was the sole prize winner. Playing the new Jordan Concert Organ built by Canadian organ builder Fernand Letourneau, Horton was awarded the \$15,000 second prize by the jury of Marie-Claire Alain, James David Christie, and Stefan Engels. The jurors withheld first and third prizes.

"The jurors had a definite sense of what they wanted to hear," said Horton. "...I was a little off my game that night and can't fault them for withholding the gold."

Nevertheless, Horton had a delightful time at the competition, playing selections of Jacques Boyvin, Jehan Alain, James F. Hopkins, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Jean-Jules Roger-Ducasse, and Johann Sebastian Bach.

"Competitions stretch you to play music you might have missed, to step out of your comfort zone," he says. For the Jordan Competition, Horton had to select pieces spanning some four centuries: something by Bach, something written after 1950, one between 1850 and 1950, something written during France's *grand siècle*, and a work written by Jehan Alain.

Choosing the right pieces for a competition is important, but also an educated guess, Horton says. "You need to



Dr. Robert Horton

select pieces that will make the particular organ sound good and pieces that do not take too long to set up." Ironically to some, the contestants often help each other in this set-up process. "An organ competition is really more a competition of the organist against himself and against the organ," says Horton, who enjoys the camaraderie that grows between his colleagues during the days they spend together.

"It's possible to have a good player not do well on a particular organ," he adds.

Horton began the application process for the Jordan Competition last February, submitting a CD of his playing. He selected one new piece and presented others that he has developed over the years.

Horton is a relative latecomer as a musician. At Cornell University he majored in East Asian Studies. He loves languages, but as the Asian economy began its slump,

he took stock of what else he enjoyed and decided to go on in music. Why organ? In brief, he says, it was the experience of singing in choir—particularly of singing Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* during his freshman year at Cornell.

Horton, who has been an active church musician, says that organists can be their own worst enemies.

"The organ stands on its own so easily—one person can make a whole orchestra's worth of sound. It's been the default instrument in churches for a long time." Organists can help congregations who have tired of the organ renew their appreciation by using other people and instruments in worship services. It takes more time and coordination, but in the end more involvement is a better model because it draws on the talents of more people in the congregation, he believes.

The disillusionment of some with the organ may also be linked to the fact that most organ instruction follows the methods of Marcel Dupré, whose smooth, connected, and slightly blurred style is more appropriate for accompanying Gregorian chant than for leading congregational singing. "Smooth sounds are essential at times, but the organ also has to be able to sound raucous, clear, and vigorous," he says. Dordt's organ, built in 1979, allows the organist to play with this kind of punch.

Horton believes that the most important thing he can teach his students is control over the sound of the instrument. The organ is so large and so complex. Students need to get past the complicated mechanics and make it speak, tell a story, come alive, he believes. As he prepares a new generation of organists for competitions like The Jordan, he hopes his students will play the organ as a "living organism," not a mechanical instrument.

Josh Van Schouwen learns something about blessings

Julie Ooms

The second semester of Josh Van Schouwen's sophomore year was normal. Classes began and went as usual for three weeks. But on Tuesday, February 4, 2003, Van Schouwen got a phone call that changed his life. His unit in the Army Reserve was being called overseas. He was to report to Sioux Falls that Friday. With three days to get ready, he had little time to think about what he was about to do.



Van Schouwen

When he signed up for an eight-year commitment in the Reserves at seventeen, Van Schouwen knew it was likely he'd get called to serve—but not as soon or as suddenly as he was. "My unit was one of the first called out. I was one of the first Dordt students to get deployed while still in school," he says. "Dordt didn't even have a policy for my situation when I got called up. I think they ended up having to treat it like a medical emergency," he says with a

chuckle. On March 23, 2003, a month and a half after Van Schouwen received that phone call, the 323rd Chemical Company unit was deployed, Van Schouwen among them. He returned 367 days later, on March 24, 2004. "It was a leap year," he again chuckled.

Asked how his experience in Iraq has affected him as he continues his education, Van Schouwen was thoughtful. "I'm really not sure what I want to do after I graduate yet," he confides, eyebrows drawing together. Although he would have graduated in 2005, he now expects to graduate in May of 2007. His computer science major comes from a computer hobby he had in high school. He added a business major after coming back from the service. "A lot of my credits got waived. I didn't have to take any HPER classes, and I completed my cross-cultural requirement after I did an interview about my army experience, so I had room to add another major," he explains. "I enjoyed the business classes I had been taking, and decided that, since I had room, a business major would be a good thing to add."

Though Van Schouwen is unsure what vocation he'll pursue after college, and though he's fairly certain he'll be deployed again in the not-so-distant future, his experience in Iraq has motivated him to

put his education in the forefront of his mind. "I've really realized the value of school," he says, gesturing emphatically. "I definitely try a lot harder now." He says his stint in the army has matured him—"If I can say that without sounding arrogant," he adds with another laugh—and that he values the education he's getting at Dordt a lot more.

Van Schouwen says he realized, after returning from Iraq, just how much he had been blessed with—opportunities that others don't have. "You get a completely different twist on things," he explains. "I appreciate now how blessed I am to get the quality of education that I am here at Dordt. I saw a lot of people who have never gotten and won't get that kind of opportunity."

As for his stint in the army itself, Van Schouwen says with a chuckle, "I heard someone describe it like, 'It was a million dollar experience I wouldn't pay a nickel for.'" But was it worth it? "It was definitely beneficial," he says emphatically. "I've come to realize things I have that I wasn't really aware of before." And in whatever vocation he chooses, and whether or not he returns to Iraq, Van Schouwen is certain he'll never lose that awareness.

Fall teams taste post-season

Mike Byker

Women's soccer earns trip to nationals

The Dordt College Lady Defender soccer team posted a 9-9-2 mark this past fall under the direction of Bill Elgersma. The Lady Defenders started slowly, but an ultra-competitive non-conference schedule served the Lady Defenders well as they posted an 8-2-1 Great Plains Athletic Conference mark, earning them a second place finish.

The post-season saw the Lady Defenders advance to the GPAC finals and also the NAIA Region III semifinals before being eliminated in the four-team tournament played in Duluth, Minnesota.

Elgersma was named the conference coach of the year for the second time in his four-year tenure as head coach and three Lady Defenders earned All-GPAC notice with Suzanne Clark and Nicki De Blaey earning first-team honors and Callie Christensen taking second-team honors. De Blaey was also named to the second team all-region and ends her career with 34 goals—which is fourth all-time at Dordt—and 79 total points—also fourth all-time.

Also at the regional level, Clark was accorded player-of-the-year honors and Christensen was named to the first team. Clark went on to be named 3rd-team All-American by the NAIA after helping the Lady Defenders limit their opponents to less than 1.5 goals per game; she assisted on nine goals. Clark is the first Lady Defender soccer player to be named to an all-American team.

Heather Otten, Karissa Phelps and Abbie Soodsma were all named NAIA scholar-athletes at the conclusion of the season. Otten is a theology-youth ministries major. Phelps and Soodsma are both physical education majors. Scholar athletes must hold at least a cumulative 3.5 grade point average, must make significant contributions to their team, and must be nominated by their coach.

Men's soccer players earn honors

The Defender men's soccer team qualified for the Great Plains Athletic Conference post-season tournament for the second year in a row after posting a 6-5 loop record. The Defenders advanced to the conference semifinals before

being eliminated by Hastings, the eventual national tournament qualifier.

Ryan Coon, Andrew Dunham, and Mike Oppeneer all earned post-season recognition with Coon and Dunham taking all-GPAC first-team honors and Oppeneer being named

to the second team. Coon went on to be named to the NAIA all-Region III first team and eventually was accorded honorable mention All-American accolades by the NAIA.

Coon scored 15 goals and had seven assists for the Defenders while his runningmate, Oppeneer, posted 16 goals and seven assists in the two-pronged attack.

Dunham was the backbone of a Dordt College defense that allowed opponents an average of 2.4 goals per game.

Suzanne Clark

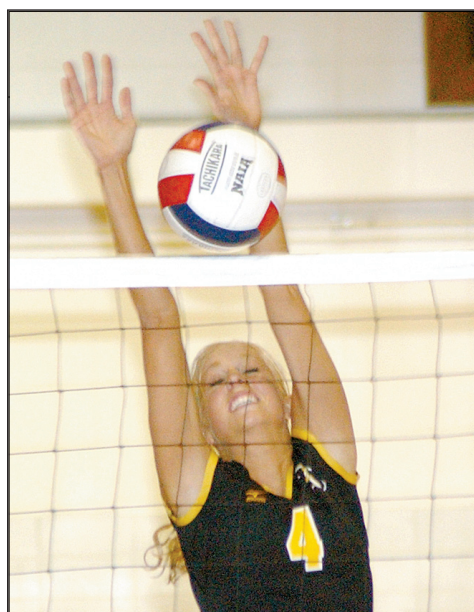
Seniors Bryan Burgers and Aaron Faber were named NAIA scholar-athletes. Burgers is a computer science major, and Faber is a communication major. Both are repeat selections for the award given to juniors and seniors who hold at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, make significant contributions to their team, and are nominated by their coach.

Cross County runners earn All-Conference honors

The Dordt College cross country team placed two runners in the NAIA national meet in late November at Louisville, Kentucky. The two runners, Chelsea Gerdes and Tim Eisenga both earned all-conference honors with their top-15 finishes at the GPAC meet.

At the national meet, Eisenga registered a time of 25:36.60 over the 8000 meter course and place 50th out of 261 runners, improving on his 130th finish from a year ago. Gerdes completed the women's 5000 meter course in a time of 19:04.30 for 69th place out of 259 runners.

Ryan Coon



Emily Van Voorst

Volleyball makes seventh appearance at NAIA nationals

The Dordt College Lady Defender volleyball team advanced to the NAIA national tournament for the seventh time this fall and completed their season with a 40-5 record. The Lady Defenders went 2-2 at the national tournament and were eliminated after pool play concluded.

The Lady Defenders' 40 wins this season were the second most in school history and brought to a close the careers for three Lady Defenders who earned post-season honors. Tara De Boer was named first-team all-conference for the third straight year and was named the conference player-of-the-year for the second year in a row. De Boer also earned first-team all-NAIA region III honors and was picked for the second team by the NAIA all-American selection committee. De Boer set new records this season with 706 kills and a 4.9 kills per game average. De Boer leaves Dordt with 2311 career kills.

Jill Haan was also picked first-team all-GPAC and second-team all-region while Rachel Van Beek, the third senior on the team, was tabbed for honorable mention by the NAIA. Haan averaged 2.5 kills per game and 4.6 digs per contest—tops on the team, while Van Beek averaged 3.2 kills per contest.

Emily Van Voorst, a sophomore setter, was picked first team all-GPAC and first team all-NAIA Region III and honorable mention all-American. Van Voorst put up 13.9 assists per game and dug up 2.5 kill attempts per game. Lindsey Van Wyk also earned post-season honors by being named to the GPAC second team. Van Wyk averaged 2.6 kills and 3.6 digs for a team that won their third straight GPAC regular season title and third straight post-season tournament title.

The Lady Defenders are 144-20 over the past four years and have won back-to-back regional titles. The Lady Defenders also hold a 55-match conference winning streak dating back to the 2002 season.

Tom Van Den Bosch also reached a pair of milestones this season while earning GPAC coach of the year. Van Den Bosch won his 300th career match at Dordt College and also won his 1000th career match decision in high school and college with a win over Dakota State in September.

Board approves start of football

At its fall meeting on October 21, the Dordt College Board of Trustees voted to begin implementation of a football program. The search for a head coach and the raising of funds has begun.

"It's the right time to do this," says Board of Trustees President Dr. Calvin Hoogendoorn. "In our pool of prospective students, we see more and more high school juniors and seniors who want the Christian and Reformed education that Dordt College provides, but who also want football as part of their college experience. In many of their high schools, football is already a team sport."

Dr. Carl E. Zylstra says, "Starting a football program at a college is a huge task. We needed to make sure that we not only had the capability to bring together a program, but also that we would be able to do it in a way that maintained the integrity of Dordt's mission. As I studied this issue, and discussed it in countless meetings and conversations with Dordt College faculty, staff, and constituents, I became convinced that Dordt not only could do this, but that it should."

Athletic Director Rick Vander Berg says, "Finding the right head coach is vital to the development of a football program. The head coach sets the direction." In addition to finding a coach, facilities will need to be upgraded, including adding more locker room and equipment storage space, and renovating the press box at the Sioux Center football field.

Acknowledging that starting a football program is an expensive venture, John Baas, vice president for college advancement, says that fund raising to offset the start-up costs for football has already begun. "We know of donors who have already expressed an interest in supporting a football program at Dordt College. We are contacting them and working to identify others who we think would be interested and capable of supporting this initiative."

The Dordt College football team would compete in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. If all goes as planned, Dordt College will begin junior varsity competition in the fall of 2007, with full varsity competition beginning in 2008.



The 2006 B.J. Haan Education Conference

March 9, 12:30 p.m. through March 10, 3:00 p.m.
Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA

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Gen 100: Finding their story within God's story

GEN 100 has shaped professors who teach it as much as it has shaped students who take it. The course, titled Kingdom, Identity, and Calling, is the entry-to-college seminar required of all first-year students.

Sally Jongsma

It's an uneasy hybrid that introduces incoming students to the Reformed worldview and mentors them into the Dordt academic community," says Dr. Sydney Hielema, who has given leadership to the course since it was only a proposal to Lilly Endowment Inc. three years ago. Hielema uses the phrase "uneasy hybrid" because the course has so many goals that it is sometimes a challenge to achieve them all. Nevertheless, instructors combine the different prongs by challenging their students to focus on discerning God's calling for them as Christians in Christ's kingdom.

"Many of our students have had Christian training all of their lives, but when they get to college they need to begin making choices for themselves, not because a parent or pastor tells them they should," says Education Professor Cella Bosma, who teaches one of the twenty-six sections offered this past fall. "They need to understand what it means to be responsible disciples, kingdom workers right now and in the future." College gives new freedom and a time to explore and take risks, but it is not a time to spend in limbo with no responsibility, Bosma says.

Dr. Charles Veenstra, professor of communication and another GEN 100 instructor, finds that students can become paralyzed by trying to figure out what they are called to if they believe that God has a set plan, and they just need to put the pieces of the puzzle together to find out who they will marry or what they will do as a profession. He and the other instructors help their students understand that calling is not that cut and dried.

During a site visit in mid-November, a Lilly Endowment Inc. representative visiting campus to see how the grant-funded program was going, remarked to Humanities Dean Dr. John Kok that he didn't think there were ten schools in the United States that had the homogeneity of religious perspective that

would allow them to do what GEN 100 is doing.

Kok, who administers the \$2 million grant received three years ago, appreciated the visitor's encouragement and is grateful for the fact that faculty from across the disciplines can teach a course that introduces students to the heart of the biblical worldview that Dordt College holds dear.

GEN 100 uses the text *Deepening the Colors: Life Inside the Story of God*, a book Hielema wrote specifically for this course. It serves as the foundation for helping students "'get engaged'"—in the classroom, on campus, in worship, in service," as the course syllabus says, adding, "This is not a sit, listen, and take notes type of course! You are expected to be an active participant in the learning process." Classes include a variety of activities, exercises, discussions, debates, role-plays, group problem solving, and reflection. Students write journals and reflection papers that help them reflect thoughtfully on who they are, issues that are important to them, and what they are called to do once they leave college.

In some ways this is the hardest course he has had to teach, says Hielema. It places highly unique demands on college professors. The instructors interact very personally with students. They meet one-on-one with each student five times during the semester, usually in response to a reflective written assignment. Because of that relationship, instructors also need to be flexible if they are to respond to and mentor each of the fourteen individuals in their group.

In many senses teaching is always like that, says Education Professor Lloyd Den Boer. "Most contemporary learning theory argues for the importance of a social and emotional context for learning, recognizing that students are whole people," he says. GEN 100 instructors consciously try to establish a safe learning community for new students. As they help them make



The faculty and staff members who serve as GEN 100 instructor/mentors for the 365 first-year students enrolled at Dordt College this year come from many departments.

My Story Within God's story

One of the major components of GEN 100 is a semester-long assignment called My Story Within God's Story. The syllabus describes it as follows:

Who am I? What am I about? Where have I been? Who do I want to become? What matters most to me? What am I good at? What are my hopes, fears, desires? Who really knows me? Tough questions with life-shaping consequences! Our identity is formed through our struggle to find unity, purpose, direction, and meaning in our life ... piecing together our personal story. Coming up with a personally satisfying and publicly

convincing answer to the question "Who am I?" has been widely accepted as one of the major developmental challenges and accomplishments of the college experience. One of the goals of GEN 100 is to assist new students to develop their own sense of identity, to understand and articulate their story. Throughout the semester term we will build on the theme "Jesus matures us" to focus more specifically on God's leading in each of our own lives to shape our unfolding story. To do this well, we need to understand two things: how God leads and who I am. Deepening will help us focus on the first

issue; through written reflections we will focus on the second. Seeing ourselves "inside the story of God" will help us examine and understand who we are, what we are here for, and how we are called to be members of a faith community.

Students write five reflective papers throughout the semester that are compiled. Each student will reread the paper as part of GEN 300, the senior capstone course titled Calling, Task, and Culture. A confidential copy of each student's assignment will be kept on file for them to respond to by writing a brief response about how they have changed while at Dordt College.

the transition to a new stage in their lives, wrestle with old and new ideas, and reflect on who they are, instructors often get to know their GEN 100 students better than students in their other classes.

"You run into real 'stuff' that affects students' ability to function and learn," says Den Boer.

Dr. Tom Wolthuis from the theology

department adds, "Because of teaching GEN 100, I now look at all of my students differently."

"Every instructor almost becomes a pastor," says Hielema. They aren't pastors but they act pastorally. They also share their ideas and support one another through weekly lunch meetings.

Because of their interaction, GEN 100 instructors quickly see when their students could benefit from a referral for counseling or other

services, when they simply need a word of encouragement, or when they need a little push. Hielema believes that the course serves different students differently. For some, having a mentor close enough to see problems in their lives and direct them to help gives them the tools and the confidence to make the transition to college life. For others, GEN 100 simply provides an easy place to have questions asked and answered, making the adjustment to college easier. For others who come without a clear idea of a major, the readings and discussions provide a forum for wrestling with what they are called to do and offers a safe place to

Student Learning Outcomes for GEN 100

The first term seminar (FTS) will help you to:

Understand who you are and who/what owns your heart.

Understanding how your own identity/story is connected to understanding of the story of God and his world and how we are situated within that story

Clarifying for yourself what Christian discipleship requires in all dimensions of your life—in class, in the dorm, at work and play, in relationships, at worship.

Discover what you are here for and who you are called to become.

Discover, explore, and examine your strengths, gifts, interests and passions, challenges, and opportunities and where these might take you in kingdom service.

Develop skills to maximize your learning.

Thinking critically and creatively

Listening to and learning from fellow students

Writing clearly

Using effective study skills and strategies

Building mutually supportive relationships

Shape and strengthen your grasp of a Reformed/biblical perspective on life and learning.

Understand the broad outlines of the story of the kingdom of God as creation, fall, redemption, and consummation.

Explore how this worldview affects our understanding of ourselves, our world, and our calling

Practice constructive life habits for Christian living in a campus setting.

explore career possibilities.

But although most instructors are enthusiastic about what they're doing, they say it's been a growing process and the course has changed significantly since it was first offered three years ago. Individual instructors continue to look for ways to be more effective. And even though they all teach from the same general syllabus, each person must draw on his or her individual strengths to make it work.

"It was developed by trial and error," says Hielema, adding that it's not always fun to do that so publicly.

Bosma has also been teaching Gen 100 for three years. "I hated it the first year we offered it," she says. After two years of refining, she loves teaching the class.

"We've been able to develop a way for students to be able to learn to think and challenge one another's ideas in a safe environment," Bosma says. She hopes and expects it will help her students learn critical



Kae Van Engen's GEN 100 class raised enough money to send a classmate home for Christmas. (front, from left) Alison Tjoelker, Josh Dykstra, Etson Williams, Benjamin Witte, Dana Vanden Hull (row 2, from left) Rachelle Kruisselbrink, Sam Doty, Sarah Teunissen, Marne De Bruin, Caryn Nydam, (row 3, from left) Professor Kae Van Engen, Jon Van Dixhoorn, Joseph Buhlig, Jesse Houweling, Tim Hockstra.

Class holds fundraisers for fellow student

They're a class with a mission: a group of fourteen Dordt freshmen worked to raise enough money to fly a classmate, Etson Williams, home for Christmas.

Williams is a twenty-four-year-old international student from Barrouallie, St. Vincent, an island in the Caribbean. He was married less than a year ago.

Participants in the effort to reunite Etson with his wife and family during Christmas were class members in a seminar called "Kingdom, Identity and Calling," a class for first-year students that focuses on mentoring students as they make the transition from high school to college. In it students learn about the vision, expectations, and community they will find

at Dordt College and are encouraged to discern who they are and what they are called to in God's kingdom.

During class discussions on building community, students were challenged to come up with a way of helping someone in their community. Class member Caryn Nydam proposed helping their fellow classmate and got an enthusiastic response.

Their advisor, Kae Van Engen, approached Etson about his willingness to receive this gift, and with that hurdle cleared, all that remained were the fundraisers. By early November, the class had purchased Etson's ticket and had money left to donate to needs of other international students.

thinking skills.

Some have suggested that the course doesn't have enough content, that it may be too much hand-holding. Hielema, Bosma, Veenstra, and Den Boer disagree. There is genuine content to be learned and they all test their students on what they've learned in *Deepening the Colors*. Other instructors ask students to complete projects that demonstrate how they wrestled with the course themes through poetry, story, art work, music, or another medium.

"The course's uniqueness is that it teaches worldview *engagement*," says Hielema. Learning how to talk about worldview is not the same as trying to practice it. That's why he focuses on students' role in the kingdom. If they work out one aspect of that kingdom in their lives—like what it means to be in the image of God or understand calling or develop spiritual habits—they will eventually work out their response more fully, Hielema believes.

"We're trying to form a learning community within which they can better learn the 'content' in ways that will prepare them to tackle their other courses," says Den Boer. He tries to help his students understand the vision that drives Dordt's

general education program by helping them understand and use the four coordinates upon which the curriculum is based: religious orientation (Who owns your heart?), creational structure (How do things hang together?), creational development (How did things get to this point?), and contemporary response (What do we do now?). As part of this process, Den Boer has his students watch and try to understand the world they live in by watching a film like *Hotel Rwanda* and as they do so ask and reflect on these questions.

Veenstra, too, pushes his students to think about justice for the poor as well as ethnic and religious groups.

"If you could read the journals, you would see how students are really struggling to deal with the challenges of life," he adds.

Veenstra finds it interesting and rewarding to see how much his students mature over the course of one semester.

"They come in bragging about their athletic prowess or their musical ability, but within two months that begins to fade as they confront bigger issues in life.... I think Dordt College is far better off for having instituted GEN 100. I don't know if you can prove it—how do you measure maturity?—but I feel its impact."

GEN 100 was originally funded through the five-year \$2 million Program in Christian Vocation grant from the Lilly Endowment. This year Dordt College can submit an application for a sustainability grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. that would help fund the program for an additional three years.

When Hielema and others were proposing the GEN 100 course several years ago, Hielema came across a Harvard study of predictors for success in college. One of the two predictors listed was a significant relationship with one professor.



Kingdom, Identity, and Calling

Named Scholarship Recipients

Harker’s Leadership Scholarship
Rochelle Braunschweig
Emily Schoenfelder

Henry & Sadie Buteyn Family Teacher
Education Scholarship Andrea De Jong

Henry De Groot Business Administration
Scholarship Mary Davelaar

Heritage Agriculture Scholarship
Bethany Posthuma

Heritage Communication Scholarship
Teresa Ulferts

Heritage HPER Scholarship
Megan Groeneweg

Heritage Teacher Education Scholarship
Shannon Hubers

Hilda Ozinga Art Scholarship
Pamela Groenewegen
Lindsey Shearer
Adam Wilkerson
Rachel Bruning

Huisman Minority Student Scholarship
Matthew Lopez
Xiong Yang

Innotec Engineering Scholarship
Joel Prins

Integrity in Business Scholarship
Ashley Van Grouw

Interstates Electric Computer Science
Scholarship Bryan Burgers

Interstates Electric Engineering
Scholarship Jason Wyenberg

Jack Grotenhuis Memorial Scholarship
Alecia Engelsman

Jake Hop Men’s Basketball Scholarship
Aaron Teerink

Jake Hop Scholarship
Amber Vander Veen

James Albert Klaver Memorial
Scholarship Sarah Van Dyken

James Koldenhoven Theater Arts
Scholarship Laura Dykstra

Jeanie Zinkand Memorial International
Student Scholarship Jeriel Melgares

Jeffrey A. Alons Theater Arts Scholarship
Laurel Alons Koerner

Jill Vander Zee Memorial Scholarship
Kelly Hanenburg

JJR Leadership Scholarship
Jessica Braunschweig
Matthew Kunnari
Rachel Bruning
Ruth Nieuwenhuis
Elbert Bakker

Joe J. Dahm Memorial Music Scholarship
Leah Applebee
Nicholas Engbers
Elaine Hannink
Lisa De Vries
Wilbert Talen
Tim Van Voorst

Joe’s Ready Mix, Inc. Scholarship
Jennifer Anema

John & Frances Bonnema Memorial
Business Scholarship
Leah Van Wyhe Vande Vegte
Rina Heysek
Janna Vermeer

(Continued on page 11)

FACULTY PROFILE

Hoekstra tackles teacher training

Sally Jongsma

Dr. Barb Hoekstra, Dordt’s new coordinator for instruction, describes her office as “a revolving door of information for professors.” Hoekstra, who also helps assess student learning, is a resource for faculty looking to improve their teaching. Sometimes ideas leave her office within minutes of when they come in. It’s happened that a faculty member shared an idea that Hoekstra thought the next person might be able to use, so she passed it on in her next meeting.

Hoekstra, who has taught both in junior high and in Dordt’s education department, loves teaching and thought she’d miss the classroom more than she does. But she’s finding her new work exciting.

“Anytime I can talk about teaching, that’s a good day,” she says. And in many ways she is still teaching.

Hoekstra’s schedule has increased dramatically since she began in September. As more people learn what she’s doing and as she talks to more individual faculty members, others come to share ideas or glean them. So far she’s spent considerable time consulting individually with newer faculty, going over student evaluations with them to find areas to focus on, reviewing course syllabi and giving suggestions for constructing them, and discussing ideas for classroom activities that might be effective for a particular discipline or teaching style.



Barb Hoekstra

She also finds other ways to assist faculty in their work: she sends out articles or other information of pedagogical interest via e-mail; she joins the weekly New Faculty Orientation Seminar to better understand the pedagogical issues and concerns of new faculty; she conducted a faculty needs assessment to learn what issues and ideas faculty want help with; she’s offered “short courses” like the one this fall on understanding and administering student evaluation-of-teaching forms; and she’s planning a faculty workshop for January.

“Most college professors are not trained in teaching, they’re trained in their discipline,” says Dr. Rockne McCarthy, vice president for academic affairs. Hoekstra’s new position provides an easy way for faculty to get information about current pedagogical practice and, if they wish, help in how they can improve individually. The student evaluation forms provide information about what teachers do well and also about what they can do to improve.

“There’s much more information available than just the percentages listed,” says McCarthy, who adds that it takes some understanding and time to get at all of the helpful information available. Part of Hoekstra’s job is to help faculty use and benefit from these evaluations.

As Hoekstra looks ahead, the ways to assist faculty keep multiplying in her mind. She believes that one-on-one conversations will continue to be important. Borrowing from the Habitat for Humanity slogan, she’s working with “One teacher at a time” to help faculty think about the way they teach, listen to their concerns, and offer suggestions they can use. She also hopes to get faculty talking together more about how they teach, to set up books discussions that a variety of people could benefit from, and to formalize a mentoring program.

“Dordt faculty want to be the best teachers they can be. Hoekstra’s work can help them achieve that goal,” says McCarthy.

FACULTY NEWS

Education Professor **Ed Starkenburg** gave his presentation “Critical Literacy and Social Class in Children’s Literature” at the International Reading Association Midwest Regional Convention in Minneapolis on November 11 and in Miami on November 30 at the National Reading Conference. **Starkenburg** is currently serving on the Iowa Reading Association board of directors as the Zone A (northwest Iowa) director.



Dr. Benjamin Kornelis’s arrangement of “Jesus Loves Me” will soon be published by Harrock Hall (www.harrockhall.com).

Dr. Duane Bajema, professor of agriculture, served as a national reviewer for the Southern Region Agricultural Education Research Conference of the American Association of Agricultural Education.

English Professor **David Schelhaas’s** article, “St. Louise and the Teaching of Literature,” was published in the October 2005 *Christian Educators Journal*.

Dr. Karen DeMol served on a task force appointed by the College Music Society, a national organization of college music teachers, to plan and present a day-long workshop on departmental administration for new department chairs. The workshop took place at the annual conference of the College Music Society, held in November.

Advancement representative **Dave Vander Werf**, director of planned giving

at Dordt College, was presented the “Top Producer for 2005” award at the 2005 Barnabas Foundation annual conference, held in September.

The award recognized Vander Werf’s efforts last year, resulting in the most quality referrals to free estate planning services offered by the Barnabas Foundation.

Dr. John Zwart, professor of physics, gave a talk titled “Grading AP Physics” at the Tri-State American Association of Physics Teachers meeting held at Luther College in October. The meeting was a joint one involving the Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin sections of AAPT. Zwart also served on the nominating committee which presented its slate of candidates at the business meeting of the Iowa section.

Librarian **Sheryl Taylor** was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-elect of a regional Sirsi (a library automation system) Midwest Users Group. Taylor, who helped start the organization nicknamed SMUG, has been its secretary since its inception. It includes librarians from Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Missouri schools.



Taylor

Dr. Sherri Lantinga presented a poster at the *Engaging Minds Conference: Best Practices in Teaching Critical Thinking Across the Psychology Curriculum* in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 1, 2005. Her poster, “Sorting Mountains from Molehills through Research, Debate, and Reflection,” described

a set of assignments used in her Introduction to Psychological Studies (PSYC 202) course that are intended to promote critical thinking. The poster included students’ ratings of the three-part project as well as course-embedded assessment showing significantly increased ability to state a clear thesis on a controversial psychological topic and support it with evidence (both in writing and in an in-class presentation/debate).

Dr. Sandi Altena, director of resident life, had an article titled “Connected Classrooms Support Female Learning” in *Women in Higher Education*, Dec. 2005, Vol 14, No 12. Her paper “Justice in the Classroom through Connected Pedagogy” appears on-line on the Kuyper’s Institute website (Dec. 2005).

Three education department faculty gave presentations at the ACSI Mid-America Region Teachers Convention in October in Minneapolis: **Pam Adams** on Children’s Literature for the K-3 Christian School Classroom and Children’s Literature for the 4-6 Christian School Classroom; **Jenny Van Ry** on “Student Developed Assessments,” “Developing Teacher Leaders,” and “Developing Differentiated Instruction in Mixed Ability Classrooms”; **Lloyd Den Boer** on “Best Teaching Practices in the Christian Social Studies Classroom,” “The Christian Social Studies Teacher and the ‘History Wars,’” and “Civic Education in the Christian High School.”

Dr. Douglas Allen’s article titled “Meteorology” appeared in *Encyclopedia of Physics, Third Edition* edited by Rita G. Lerner and George L. Trigg, published by Wiley-VCH, 2005.

If we stand still, we fall behind

John M. Baas
Vice President for College Advancement

The Jubilee year celebrations are past but much of the excitement remains. God has truly blessed Dordt College in its first fifty years. We still hear regularly from alumni and friends about how much they appreciated last year’s Jubilee events. The 2004-2005 academic year was an exceptionally busy one for the Dordt College community and now that it’s behind us, it feels like time for a well-deserved rest. But standing still is not an option. Our students, alumni, and other supporters expect a first-rate education. That’s been part of Dordt’s promise for fifty years, and it will remain so. If we stand still, we fall behind.



John M. Baas

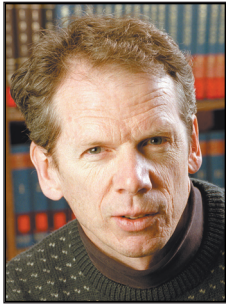
Our buildings are well maintained but will need updating to keep up with changing technology and program needs. The challenge to keep a Dordt College education financially accessible is always before us. Cost pressures continue to rise as some traditional sources of financial aid and government support erode. We will need to add significant resources to our scholarship program to make sure those who wish to attend Dordt College can afford to do so. Dordt College’s faculty is its great

strength. In order to keep them at the top of their profession we need to encourage their research and scholarship. We also want to provide new opportunities for faculty members to get out of the classroom to share their expertise with our constituent communities. And annual support continues to be of critical importance. Costs for utilities, insurance, building materials, and other resources necessary to operate the college are increasing at an extraordinary pace. The Dordt College Fund must grow to keep pace and provide the edge that makes a Dordt education an exceptional value. We will share more information over the coming months about exciting plans for Dordt’s future and how you can take part in them. We won’t be standing still. I hope you will move forward with us.

Henderson explores video lectures

Sally Jongsma

Dr. Roger Henderson is always looking for new ways to do a better job of teaching his students. Over the past year, he’s been exploring how he can use technology to supplement his philosophy lectures. When Dordt College moved from Blackboard to an open source electronic course content management system last year, it presented a better way to include video streaming. Henderson saw an opportunity to use videotaped lectures to supplement his classroom lectures. By experimenting with the technology, he also hopes to get his own sense of how online teaching might work. “This allows me to talk about some things that I wouldn’t otherwise have



Henderson

time for,” he says. He has taped lectures, which range from five minutes to forty-five minutes, on topics such as Gnosticism, Pantheism, Kuyper, and Plato. He also has lectures on main course themes like worldview and creation. “Students who would like more information can go to one of the videos and go through it at their own pace,” Henderson says. Henderson stresses that the effort is a trial and an amateur one at that. He worked with recent graduate Jack Maatman, who did the videotaping. They used background scenes to give some context for the lectures. “I don’t know how well this kind of instruction works with what is essentially entertainment medium, whether it adds or detracts,” he says. He believes that effective teachers build relationships with students and points to the mesmerizing effect that video usually has on viewers. He is inclined to think that any online course needs at least some classroom time in which instructor and student are physically present, but he is eager to learn what works and what doesn’t.

Henderson believes that the format presents opportunities for parents and other interested parties to get a glimpse of what goes on in Philosophy 201 at Dordt College. Because of the amount of bandwidth the videotaped lectures require, people off campus will not be able access the lectures at this point. But anyone visiting campus can get to them by going to a campus computer and clicking on "courses @ Dordt" and then entering "guest" for both the login and password requests. With the busyness of the semester’s work Henderson has had to put the project on hold, and, since Maatman has moved away, he will have to work with a new student. Despite the fact that there are twenty-three lectures of varying lengths posted, Henderson feels like he only just “got going.” Some of the most important content, the basics of building a Christian philosophy, have not been touched yet. “I think it would be valuable to have a presentation of Christian philosophy documented in this form as well as in written form,” he says.

Named Scholarship Recipients

John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Music Scholarship	Carolyn Sybesma Amber Wiersma
John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Social Work Scholarship	Angela Van Beek
John & Frances Bonnema Memorial Teacher Education Scholarship	Joseph Bakker Elizabeth Sohre Rachel Hondred
John & Reona Reinsma Organ Scholarship	Rebecca Franje
John B. Hulst Teacher Education Scholarship	Kelsie De Nooy Caryn Nydam
John Bosma Memorial Scholarship	Alicia Mulder
Len & Lee Rhoda Women’s Basketball Scholarship	Nicole De Blaeys
Link Manufacturing Ltd. Engineering Scholarship	Kelsey Van Bommel
Louis & Agnes Kamps Scholarship	Ashley Hoekema
Louis & Johanna Zuiderhof Teacher Education Scholarship	Jason Elenbaas
Louis & Tina Van Dyke History Scholarship	Karin Kobes DeLapp
Martin Seven Classics Scholarship	Justin Van Zee
Martin Seven Communication Scholarship	Sarah Snieder
Martin Seven English Scholarship	Gloria Ayee Darla Visser Haveman
Martin Seven HPER Scholarship	Sarah Matherly
Martin Seven Mathematics Scholarship	Bryan Burgers
Mike Vanden Bosch English Scholarship	Jason Elenbaas
Minnie Dahm Medical Technology Scholarship	Jaclyn Arkema Amber Sasse
Minnie J. Dahm Organ Education Scholarship	Brian De Young Sarah Schaap Carrie Spronk
Minnie Julia Dahm Premedical Scholarship	Jayne Van Beek Grace Yoon
MTC Foundation Scholarship	Stephanie Davelaar Leah Fedders Paul Krygsman Micah Schouten Alysia Ter Haar Miller Jayme Van Beek Scott Van Voorst Eric Vande Griend Matthew Zwart Benjamin Dirksen Joy Horstman Tonia Van Beek
Nick R. Van Til Scholarship	Amy Nugteren
Nick Verbrugge International Student Scholarship	Anastacia Sevastianova
Pella Corporation Business Scholarship	Joel Van Egdom

(will be continued next issue)

Position Openings

To learn more about a position and receive application materials, qualified persons committed to a Reformed, biblical perspective and educational philosophy are encouraged to send a letter of interest and curriculum vita/ resume to:

Dr. Rockne McCarthy
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dordt College
498 4th Ave. NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250-1697
Facsimile: 712 722-4496
E-mail: vpaa@dordt.edu
Web site: www.dordt.edu/offices/academic_affairs

Dordt College is an equal opportunity institution that strongly encourages the applications of women, minorities, and disabled persons.



DORDT COLLEGE

Dordt College is seeking applications in the following areas:

August 2006

- Business Administration Faculty** (Possible Opening)
Introductory and advanced-level courses. Candidates with interest in Human Resources or Economics or Accounting are particularly encouraged to apply.
- Education Faculty**
Introductory and upper-level foundations courses and graduate courses. Teaching experience at the elementary or secondary level required, doctorate preferred.
- Mathematics Faculty** (Possible Opening)
Introductory and intermediate-level courses.
- Nursing Faculty**
Teach selected BSN completion courses with opportunities to assist with course development in the areas of Family, Community and Public Health and Professional Practice development. Master’s degree and current license or eligibility for licensure as professional nurse in Iowa required.
- Psychology Faculty** (Possible One-Year Opening)
Introductory, social, and research courses.
- Social Work Faculty, Director of Field Education**
Teach in all areas of generalist BSW program; direct and coordinate BSW field education program. MSW and a minimum of two years post-MSW experience required; social work field practicum and supervision experience preferred.
- Youth Ministry and Biblical Studies Faculty**
Teach general education courses in biblical theology, a section of the first-term seminar, and courses related to the youth ministry emphasis.



Musical - Amazing talent!
It was a very humorous
but also thought-
provoking play. We all
enjoyed it a lot. It was
very professionally done.
Wisconsin



My first impression of Dordt is that it is a beautiful
campus, bright, well organized, friendly and
Christian. I'm glad my daughter chose this college for
herself in spite of our objections to the distance from
our home. Alberta

The weekend is full—we can't take
everything in, but we love the fact
that there is so much to pick from.
The concert was a highlight for
us—the wonderful talents we heard
and seeing students singing with such
meaning was a blessing. Wisconsin



Thanks for making Dordt College a great place for our
son to receive his college education. Michigan

I appreciate the opportunity to meet the
people in our son's life—friends, teachers,
staff, and coaches. Minnesota

Thank you for the
variety that was
available this weekend.
We appreciate your
interest in making us
part of the Dordt
experience. Alberta



Thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.
What a great feeling to leave our
son in that wonderful Christian
environment. Iowa



This was our 11th
parent weekend.
Keep up the
good work.
Michigan



The students
have always
impressed
me with their
manner,
maturity,
and example.
Nebraska

I didn't have a spare hour; there was always something to do. Looking forward
to attending this great event next year. When I first came to Dordt to see if that
is where my son should go I "smelled" the great Christian environment in the air at
Dordt. My second and now my third visit I have felt the same. This is my comfort in
overcoming the distance. Indiana



I went to two classes with my son and was
warmly received. It was quite interesting.
I am looking forward to next year.
Colorado

Parents' Weekend

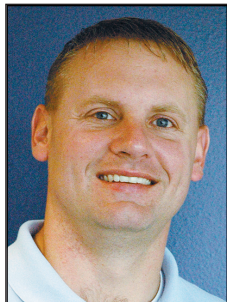
New alumni council members begin their terms

Dennis Kroll ('84) and Rosemary (Fey, '89) have settled in southwest Minnesota after teaching English in China for twelve years. They live in Edgerton with their three children, and Dennis teaches ESL at Worthington Middle School.



Kroll

Harry Wieringa ('93) lives in Sioux Center with his wife Andrea (Leys, '93) and their three children. Harold is an ag loan officer at American State Bank.



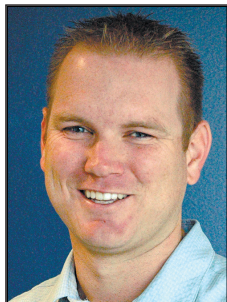
Wieringa

Tim Huizenga ('99) and Teresa (Zuidema, '99) live in Highland, Indiana, with their six-month-old son, Matthew. Tim works for Vermeer Midwest as a sales representative in northwest Indiana.



Huizenga

Mark Rip ('97) is an agronomist at an ag chemical company in Visalia, California. He and Annette (Groen, '99) have two young sons.



Rip

Laryn Bakker ('98) and Janel (Kragt, '00) live in Hyattsville, Maryland. By day he is the media designer for a non-profit graphic design organization; after hours he does freelance design work and serves on the communications committee for the Neighborhood Learning Center.



Bakker

Elizabeth (Van Oord) Vander Wier ('96) lives in Beamsville, Ontario, with her husband, Kevin. She is a stay-at-home mom to their three children and is also involved in both the children's and women's ministries in their church.



Vander Wier

Help our alumni scholarships grow

Judy (Vande Hoef) Hagey ('73)

What is the most lasting impression of your college years? Judging by the level of support Dordt College enjoys from her alumni (nearly fifty percent give back financially; more than one-third of our student body are children of alumni), it appears that many Dordt alumni have positive feelings about their alma mater.

But an area that may not leave such positive feelings is the cost of attaining a college education. Paying back college loans years after graduation doesn't leave a very positive impression even though graduates may be satisfied with their education.

That's why in recent years the Alumni Council has advocated for additional scholarship funds—both to enhance the junior scholarship program, which has awarded nearly \$40,000 to fifty-five students since its inception in 1978, and to add a scholarship program for new freshmen.

At its October meeting the council put the finishing touches on the Alumni Association Regional Scholarship program. Beginning next fall, one freshman from each of the eight regions represented by the alumni association will receive a \$1000 scholarship. While that may not seem like a huge contribution to the cost of a college education, let me tell you a bit about what goes on behind the scenes to make this happen.

Establishing criteria: The idea of funding a scholarship sounds pretty simple and straightforward until you begin thinking about how to award financial assistance. Should it be based on financial need?

academic ability? artistic or athletic gifts? Alumni council members discussed criteria for this new scholarship over several meetings and many months and finally reached consensus that a Dordt

College Alumni Association scholarship ought to support students who value Dordt's unique educational vision and will be living testimonies of holistic Christianity when they leave Dordt. While there was not unanimous agreement on each of the specific criteria, there was agreement that the most important thing alumni can do for Dordt College is to support students who desire the quality, biblical education that Dordt offers.

Money: Funding

scholarships is a significant undertaking. With today's return on investment we needed \$175,000 in the bank before we could begin awarding \$8000 in annual scholarships. Your gifts to the spring phonathon over the last few years have made what was only a dream a few years ago a reality today. But we're only half-way to the goal the council set back in February 2004. The council envisions an alumni scholarship fund of \$500,000 awarding a number of scholarships to each of the four classes.

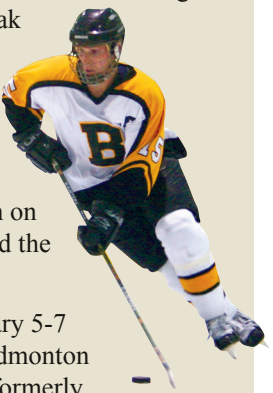
Our goal in the spring semester is to raise the \$175,000 needed to fund a second freshman scholarship in each region. It's a challenging goal. But I challenge you to think of an investment that will pay richer dividends than investing in the lives of students. When a student calls you this spring to ask for a gift, think about the difference your gift could make for a student who has caught the vision of Dordt College. And give as you are able to give.



Judy Hagey

Regional Events

The Dordt College Blades travel to Edmonton during semester break for a hockey tournament with local church and alumni teams. Get in on the action and the camaraderie:



Dates: January 5-7

Location: Edmonton

Ice Box (formerly Parkland arena)

10840 - 215 Street NW

Local Contact: Jim Hummel

Concert Choir Tour Itinerary. Mark your calendar for the date and location of the concert nearest you. If you live in or near the concert site and are willing to host a group of two or more students for a night, please contact the alumni office or the contact person listed.

March 9—Lincoln, Nebraska
Hope Community Church;
Kendra Morgan

March 10—Denver, Colorado
Third Christian Reformed Church; Matt Bylsma

March 11—Rehoboth, New Mexico, Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church

March 12—Phoenix, Arizona
Camelback Bible Church

March 13—Chino, California
First United Reformed Church;
Julie Vanden Heuvel

March 14—Ripon, California
Ripon Christian High School Performing Arts Center;
James or Vivian Schuller

March 15—San Jose, California
San Jose Christian Reformed Church; Allen Kusters

March 16—Visalia, California
Trinity Christian Reformed Church; Katie Talsma

March 17—Escondido, California
Westminster Seminary Chapel;
Vicki Van Essen

March 19—Flagstaff, Arizona
Morning worship at Hope Community Church

March 24—Home Concert
B.J. Haan Auditorium

(Keep this date open!)

February 16-18

TREASURED MEMORIES

Dordt College Alumni Weekend 2006

Jacks 'n Jazz
Pancake breakfast and Jazz Band entertainment. Proceeds go to the Concert Band's Eastern European tour.

Alumni/Blades Hockey
Alumni/Defender Basketball
Alumni Choir Concert
Rehearsals begin January 12 and continue weekly until concert on February 17.

Contemporary Christian Artist Chris Rice
in concert
Kids' Carnival
Alumni Recognition Dinner
Honoring Dr. Gregg Vande Kieft ('83; Olympia, WA), 2006 Distinguished Alumnus.

More!

Births

Brad and Jill De Boer ('85), Renae Addison, 7/26/05

Melanie (Ten Pas) and Galen Sinkey, ('88,'89), Deidra Elizabeth, 6/22/03

Simon ('89) and **Deb De Jong**, Johanna Lauryn, 9/26/05

Rick and Jacki (Fitzke), '91) Kment, Cole Patrick, 10/20/05

Erv and Cindy (Dykstra), '91) Keizer, Emily Rose, 10/30/05, adopted 10/31/05

Chad and Vonda (Dekkers) Visser ('91,'92), Carlie Anne, 5/8/04

John and Janeen (Ypema) Klompier ('92,'92), Evan Carl, 4/25/05

Greg ('92) and **Janell Pennings**, adopted Meysi Elyvia Aydra, 7/09/05

Mike and Sonja (Larson) Nop ('92, '93), Vanessa Yvonne, 4/22/05

Pat and Bethany (Slagter) Meyer ('93, '93), Peter George and Mitchell Patrick, 4/02/04

Julie (Timmer), '93) and **Nolan Van Otterloo**, Jenna Lynn and Kayla Beth, 6/11/05

Kevin and Elizabeth (Van Oord) van der Wier ('93, '96), Carson, 4/17/04

Matthew and Lisa (De Vries), '94) Vos, Alexis Lynn, 11/19/05

Reinhold and Angela (Walstra), '94)) Llerena, Nathaniel Shepherd, 5/18/05

Brent and Julie (Tubergen), '95) Sal, Aidan Matthew, 4/25/05

Sarah (Reitsma) and Dan Brouwer ('95,'95), Timothy Joost, 10/5/05

Darin and Stephanie (Schutter) Hoekema ('95, '00), Kyanna Joelle, 7/12/05



Conner Andreas reflects the family's joy over new sister and daughter, Ivy.

Chad and Sue (Vanden Brink) Uittenbogaard ('95, ex '96), Kelsey Lynn, 1/08/05

Tony and Corinna (Vander Woude) Louters ('96, '95), Breann Deborah

Marc and Shelby (Nunnikhoven) Andreas ('96, '96), Ivy Camille, 10/11/05

Jason and Kristi (Visser), '96) Grande, Liam Jason, 2/15/05

Vincent and Shannon Hursh ('96), Jenna Caroline, 9/30/05

Jonathan and Rachel (Blankespoor) Mooy ('96, '96), Allison Lyn, 9/03/05

Dan and Heather (Schreur), '96) Vander Beek, Grace Elizabeth, 10/30/05

Scott and Susan Vanden Berg ('96), Ella Anne, 9/12/05

Jim and Tammy (Pool), '96) Van Rooyen, Samantha Michal, 6/01/05

Charles and Angela (Plowman) Miedema ('96, '97), Gabriel Henry, 10/19/05

Micah and Shannon (De Wit) Schreurs ('97,'97), Stephen Josiah, 11/10/05

Craig and Jodi (Meenk), '97) Vander Yacht, Isabella Mae, 7/21/05

Craig and Mindy (Walstra), '97) Hummel, Willem Isaac, 8/29/05

Kristopher and Beth Tukker ('97), Zachary Isaac, 10/9/05

Matt and Micah (Scott) Bylsma ('98, '98), Jude Matthew, 9/02/05

Mark and Marne (Grotenhuis), '98) Dekkers, Hailey Nicole, 12/27/04

Ryan and Cheri (Bakker) Dubes ('98, '98), Will Brian and Lauren Emma, 3/06/04

William and Deborah (Rustenburg), '98) Sterling, Abigail Elizabeth, 6/07/05

Rick ('98) and **Jill Schouten**, Caden Garrett, 11/09/05

Gregory ('98) and **Julie van Leeuwen**, Emily Margaret, 11/05/05

Leah (Zuidema), '98) and **Randy Van Doornik**, Naomi Lois, 9/4/05

Seth and Leann (Aukema) Koerner ('99, '97), Isaac Michael, 6/19/05

Jason and Paige Addink ('99, '99), Levi Donald and Noah Benjamin, 7/03/05

Chris ('99) and **Erin Rylaarsdam**, Jacob Cornel, 10/24/05

Jairo and Kelly (Kuipers), '99) Solano, Natasha Leeanne, 9/10/05

Cedric and Kathryn (Heynen) Franken ('99, '00), Jonathon James Anton, 1/27/05

Russ and Stacey (Brons) Smies ('99, '01), Ada Colleen, 2/10/05

Jamin and Kate (Ellens) Ver Velde ('99, '01), Teague Andrew, 11/12/05

Matthew and Holli (Nunnikhoven) Zieske ('99, '01), Caleb Matthew, 7/08/05

Paul and Erin (Staal), '00) Voortman, Owen Hank, 8/2/05

Galen and Livija (Shannon) Boerema ('00,'00), Katherine Leigh, 11/3/05

Daniel ('00) and **Michelle De Boer**, Isaac Daniel, 5/12/05

Adam and Sharon (Bliss), '00) Dixon, Mason-Michael Charles, 8/20/05

Philip and Kristin (Brands), '00) Kleyn, Zachary Paul, 7/05/05

Mark ('00) and **Julie Vander Pol**, Alexia Rae, 6/10/05

Jon and Emily (Groenewold) Bakker ('00,'02), Tessa Ruth, 11/23/05

Eric and Dena (Alger) Danzeisen ('00, '03), Thys Levi, 9/25/05

Jonathan ('01) and **Jennifer Bentz**, Hannah Lea, 9/27/05

Doug and Tammy (Becker) Gorter ('01, '01), Heidi Jean, 8/02/05

Matt and Karen (Hamilton) Van Schouwen ('01, '01), Ryan Tate, 9/27/05

Tim and Lynn (Schemper) Kielstra ('02, '00), Luke Jacob, 8/23/05

Mike and Malissa (Int Veld) Eekhoff ('02, '02), Aidan Michael, 9/02/05

Erin (Dykstra), '02) and **Brendan Olson**, Hailey Jane, 11/2/05

Brian and Denae (Wittmeier) Matherly ('02, '03), Mitchell Glenn, 9/26/05

ALUMNI BOOK REVIEW

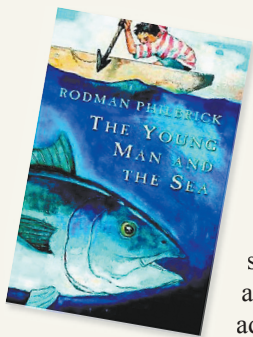
Josh Bowar

When a book starts with the sentence "Before I tell you about the biggest fish in the sea and how it tried to kill me and then ended up saving my life, first you got to know about the leaky boat, 'cause it all began right there," you know it's going to be good. And when you overhear a middle school boy excitedly recommend the same book to his friends, you read it in one night.

Rodman Philbrick's *The Young Man and the Sea* is one of those books.

Set in a small fishing village, the novel features twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman, a young man whose home life is enough to sink his spirits. His mom has just passed away, and his stunned dad is too depressed to get out of bed in the morning.

So Skiff is determined to take care of not only himself, but also his father, a once-legendary fisherman. Skiff cooks the meals, cleans up the house, and tries to earn money by catching lobsters. But these lobsters aren't enough to keep his family afloat, so he is lured to fix the *Mary Rose*, the boat that once hauled in blue fin tuna for his father. Much to his dismay, Skiff discovers that the boat's engine needs thousands of dollars worth of repairs before it will ever be of any use.



Skiff decides to take a small rowboat into the ocean, and he is determined to catch a tuna that will earn enough to help his father break out of his depression. He packs a few peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, gets some bait, and pushes off into the biggest adventure of his life. What happens out on the deep waters changes Skiff profoundly, helping him gain the responsibility, confidence, and drive to face life's trials.

The Young Man and the Sea is an action-packed young adult novel that equally balances character development, setting, conflict, and a suspenseful plot into a tale that will hook even the most reluctant of readers. Don't let this be the one that got away.

Josh Bowar, a 2005 graduate originally from South Dakota, spends his time between hurricanes teaching middle school language arts at Lake Worth Christian School in Boynton Beach, Florida. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Alicia, and he also coaches basketball, sponsors student council, and grades papers and reads by the lapping waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

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Hanford Christian School teachers seem to keep coming from Dordt

Andrew De Young ('05)

This isn't a Dordt ad!" laughs Gary Cookson ('75). He's just finished gushing about his alma mater, remembering the "well-rounded education, variety of classes, and tremendous opportunities" that he found there. But he doesn't want to be misunderstood. No, he's not being paid to say these things, he's not reading from a Dordt brochure, and he's not trying to sound like a Dordt recruiter.

He just can't help it, that's all.

The same could be said about Hanford Christian School in California, where Cookson serves as principal—it's not a Dordt ad, exactly, but with eight out of ten of their teachers hailing from Dordt, it might as well be.

"It's not a hiring policy to single out Dordt people," says Cookson. "Aside from the Lord's hand, I don't know if there's anything else you can say." In case there's any doubt, he points out that Hanford Christian began more than ten years before Dordt College did, and that Dordt grads have been coming and going in their halls for years. This year, they advertised for two positions on the CSI (Christian Schools International) website, and interviewed qualified candidates from Calvin College and Trinity Christian College as well as Dordt College.

"As it turned out, the Lord blessed us with some more



Dordt alums teaching at Hanford Christian School in Hanford, California, are (front row, left to right) Lujean (Evink) Verhoeven ('83), Kristin Homkes ('04), AnneMare (Ross) Poynter ('01), David Persenaire ('01), (back row, left to right) Margaret De Valois ('77), Gary Cookson ('75), Martje Kesting ('75), Aljean (Schaap) Plooy ('84), Marlene (Mulder) Vander Moren ('80).

Dordt graduates this year," says Cookson. "We're happy to have them."

Kristin Homkes ('04), one of the new teachers and the most recent Dordt graduate to join the Hanford staff, says that she's pleased to teach at a school with so many of her fellow alums. Even though the graduation years of the staff range from 2004 to 1975 and none of her former classmates work at Hanford Christian, Homkes says that it was something of a comfort to be joining so many graduates.

"Maybe it's just a good feeling to know that you're

going to be with good people," she says. "You know, I just love Dordt, and I thought it was really neat when I found out all the people who went to Dordt."

Margaret De Valois, a junior high teacher at Hanford, echoes Homkes's sentiments, although she does it from the opposite end of the spectrum. A '77 graduate, De Valois is one of the older teachers, and has been at the school for twenty-nine years. She enjoys teaching with fellow Dordt graduates because of what she calls "a common vision."

"It's definitely that the Word of God has something to say

about every area of life," she says. "There's also the love of learning and working with children, and giving back to God. There's a satisfaction there, a joy, in doing what God has called you to do and passing it on to younger children."

There are some drawbacks, however. De Valois, Homkes, and Cookson all say that it's important not to let their school seem like a "Dordt club."

"You have to be sensitive," says De Valois. "You don't want to go too overboard, especially with some of us who still know both verses of the alma mater!" She also mentions that, although she currently works with a lot of Dordt graduates, they have come and gone in her twenty-nine years as a teacher. Non-Dordt graduates, in other words, shouldn't read too much into Hanford's current teacher lineup.

If there is a message being sent here, it's an accidental one. As Cookson puts it, they don't just hire Dordt graduates, "but we are consistently impressed with Dordt graduates, otherwise we wouldn't hire them. It's nice to know that, after all these years, my alma mater is still doing a great job. They're still training young men and women for kingdom service."

Hanford Christian School is simply trying to teach young people to love and serve the Lord; they never set out to be a Dordt advertisement.

They just couldn't help it, that's all.



Revs. Carl, David, Mark, and John Klompier

Klompier sons follow in steps of their father

Julie Ooms

For the Klompier family, ministry is a way of life. Reverend Carl Klompier and his three sons, Mark, David, and John, are all pastors, which to many people may seem both unusual and wonderful.

David ('93) and John ('92) both graduated from Westminster Seminary in Escondido, California; Mark ('97), from Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. David currently serves as pastor of Dutton United Reformed Church in Dutton, Michigan; John is Pastor of Discipleship at First Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in Byron Center, Michigan; and Mark was recently installed as pastor of Chandler CRC in Chandler, Minnesota. Their father has recently retired from the ministry, most recently serving at First CRC of Hull, Iowa.

"When people find out that my sons and I are all pastors, they often say something like, 'Isn't that wonderful?'" Klompier says with a chuckle. But he and his sons are not in the ministry for public reaction; their commitment is to the ministry of the gospel.

When asked if his sons always knew they were called to be pastors, Klompier promptly answered, "No," with another chuckle. While Mark always wanted to go to seminary, Klompier says, John and David were not always so sure. Eventually, however, each son's calling to the ministry became clearer.

It is wonderful, Klompier agrees, that his three sons are all in the ministry. However, he is firm about the fact that all callings serve God's kingdom.

"I prayed for all my kids to be people of God," he says, "and I'm happy that they are." The fact that all three of his sons were called to be pastors—well, that's a unique and wonderful gift.

ALUMNI NEWS

Denise Houtsma ('97) was honored as the November 2005 Rotary Business Professional of the Month by the Mount Vernon, Washington, Rotary Club. Houtsma works at Riverside Health Club in Mount Vernon. She moved to Skagit County as a personal trainer in 2000. Houtsma is active in her church and serves on the Skagit Physical Activity Coalition and the Pregnancy Choices Board.

Matthew Zieske ('99) finished medical school in May 2005. He is now in his first year of residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in the field of pathology. He and **Holli (Nunnikhoven)**, '01 live in Coralville, Iowa. Holli, trained as a physical therapist, stays at home with their child, Caleb.

Galen Boerema ('00) recently passed the New York State Bar exam and works for the law firm of Sidley, Austin, Brown, and Wood. He and **Livija (Shannon)**, '00 live with their two daughters in West New York, New Jersey.

Amie (Bloemendaal), '00 and **Ryan** ('99) **Smit** now live in Lynden, Washington, where Ryan works at Lynden Christian Schools, and

Amie stays busy at Third CRC and with teaching private music lessons.

Mike Eekhoff ('02) has completed his Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. He and **Malissa (Int Veld)**, '02 live in Lacey, Washington.

Henry and Sarah (Bliss) Bakker ('96, '98) write: "Our beautiful little girl, Hannah, died in our arms Tuesday night (September 27). We spent a wonderful day with her making molds of her hands and feet, singing and reading to her, bathing her, and cuddling. Her death was quick and peaceful. We are so grateful for the five months we had with her in our lives."

Kelly Helms ('03) is finishing a two-year commitment with Youth for Christ in the Fiji Islands. She is seeking the Lord's guidance as she moves back to the United States.

Denae (Wittmeier), '03 Matherly started a freelance photography/graphic design business called "Capture the Moment" in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Denae previously worked at Starmark Cabinetry as an interior designer. She works from home to be with her son, Mitchell.

Evan Booy ('04) has been awarded several scholarships worth over \$23,000 for his post-graduate education. Booy does cancer research in the department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics at the University of Manitoba. His lab is working on developing novel anti-cancer therapeutics based on a viral protein, Apoptin, which is able to selectively target and kill cancer cells while leaving normal cells unharmed. Booy said the well-rounded education he received at Dordt, along with the continued support of and contact with Dordt professors, has given him a great advantage in his post-graduate education.

Eric Van Otterloo ('05) recently attended the 2005 conference of the Society for Neuroscience in Washington D.C., where approximately 35,000 people from around the world came to share their research in the field of neuroscience. Van Otterloo presented research he has been doing with Dr. Grazyna Rajkowska at the University of Mississippi titled "Microglia immunoreactivity is unchanged in the white matter of orbitofrontal cortex in elderly depressed patients."

The *Voice*, an outreach of Dordt College, is sent to you as alumni and friends of Christian higher education. The *Voice* is published four times per year to share information about the programs, activities, and needs of the college. Send address corrections and correspondence to VOICE, Dordt College, 498 Fourth Ave. NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250-1606 or e-mail to voice@dordt.edu.

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Board goes back to school

1

Video offerings expanded with hiring of Volkers

8

GEN 100 allows students to get acclimated

6

Horton wins international organ competition

EVENTS

Art

Jan. 6 - Feb 5	John Kaericher Retrospective Show
Feb.	Junior Show
Mar. - Apr.	Senior Shows

Jan. 12	11:00 a.m.	Convocation: Stanley Carlson Thies
Jan. 27	7:30 p.m.	Travelogue
Feb. 11	9:00 a.m.	Day of Encouragement
Feb. 17	5:00 p.m.	Alumni Banquet
	7:00 p.m.	Distinguished Alumnus lecture
Feb. 18	7-12 a.m.	Concert Band Pancake Breakfast fundraiser
Feb. 24	7:30 p.m.	Travelogue
Mar. 9,10	12:00 p.m.	B.J. Haan Education Conference

Sports

Jan. 7	2:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Hastings
Jan. 7	4:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Hastings
Jan. 9	5:30 p.m.	WBB vs Grandview
Jan. 9	7:30 p.m.	MBB vs. Grandview
Jan. 11	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs Sioux Falls
Jan. 11	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Sioux Falls
Jan. 13	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. Creighton
Jan. 14	2:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Concordia
Jan. 14	4:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Concordia
Jan. 14	4:30 p.m.	Hockey vs. Creighton
Jan. 20	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. Carleton
Jan. 21	2:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Nebraska Wesleyan
Jan. 21	4:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Nebraska Wesleyan
Jan. 21	4:30 p.m.	Hockey vs. Carleton
Jan. 27	7:00 p.m.	Hockey vs. ISU
Jan. 28	10:00 a.m.	DC Invitational Indoor Track
Jan. 28	4:30 p.m.	Hockey vs. ISU
Feb. 1	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Mount Marty
Feb. 1	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Mount Marty
Feb. 15	6:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Feb. 15	8:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Dakota Wesleyan
Feb. 18	11:00 a.m.	JV MBB vs. Alumnri
Feb. 18	1:00 p.m.	WBB vs. Briar Cliff
Feb. 18	3:00 p.m.	MBB vs. Briar Cliff
Feb. 28	TBA	MBB/WBB GPAC Finals
Mar. 13-17		Baseball @ Phoenix Invitational
Mar. 24	4:00, 6:00	Softball vs. Briar Cliff
Mar. 25	4:00, 6:00	Softball vs. Nebraska Wesleyan
Mar. 28	4:30, 6:30	Baseball vs. Northwestern
Mar. 31	4:00, 6:00	Baseball vs. Doane

Campus Activities

Music

Jan. 19	7:30 p.m.	NW Iowa Honor Orchestra
Jan. 28	7:30 p.m.	NISO Winter Pops Concert
Feb. 6	7:30 p.m.	NW ICDA Honor Choir
Feb. 10	7:30 p.m.	Octarium Vocal Ensemble
Feb. 14	7:30 p.m.	Euclid String Quartet
Feb. 16	7:30 p.m.	High School String Festival
Feb. 18	7:00 p.m.	Chris Rice Concert
Mar. 6	7:30 p.m.	Three Bands
Mar. 7	7:30 p.m.	Winter Choral Concert
Mar. 24	7:30 p.m.	Concert Choir Tour Concert

Theater

Feb. 23-25	7:30 p.m.	“Jane Eyre”
Mar. 2-4	7:30 p.m.	“Jane Eyre”